Appendix I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 981 asked by Sri A. Ratnam at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 1st March 1955, page 156 supra.]

Action taken on the main requests contained in the memorandum received from the Laccadive Islanders Welfare Committee.

Introduction of a steamer service to the islands.—The matter is under examination by the Government.

Schools for islands.—A Deputy Inspector of Schools accompanied the inspection party in 1951–52 and made detailed recommendations for improvements of educational institutions in the islands. They are being considered in connexion with the Budget for 1955–56.

Scholarships for students from islands.—The islanders are Scheduled Tribes entitled to educational concessions and boarding grants by the Harijan Welfare Department. The Director of Public Instruction is also sanctioning scholarships to students from islands. The Director of Harijan Welfare has been asked to grant as many scholarships as possible to the students from the islands.

Special hostels for island students on the mainland.—A special hostel will be opened shortly.

Dispensaries, hospitals and maternity centres.—There are four Government dispensaries in the Laccadive group of islands. Agathi is the only island in this group, where there is no permanent Government dispensary. The Medical Officer attached to the Government dispensary at Kavarathi camps at Agathi, periodically for rendering medical aid to the islanders. The question of opening a permanent Government dispensary at Agathi island is now under consideration.

As regards Amindivis, there is one dispensary with a Civil Assistant Surgeon, a compounder, a maternity assistant and a nursing orderly. In fair season the Civil Assistant Surgeon visits all the minor islands with the necessary medicines. There is another maternity assistant stationed at Kiltan. Proposals for the opening of dispensaries, in all the minor islands are under consideration. An Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department, is accompanying the inspection party now in the islands who will prepare the plans and estimates for the new buildings and work out the cost involved.

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Special allowances to Medical staff posted to the islands.—The Government have already sanctioned a compensatory allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem to the Medical Officers serving in the island.

Investigation regarding special kinds of diseases prevailing in the islands.—According to the Special Inspecting Officer of the Laccadive and Amindivi islands filaria and leprosy are prevailing in the islands on a large scale. There is already a leper colony in Minicoy. A health survey of the islands is in progress and necessary measures will be considered after the report of the Health survey party is received.

Scrapping of the Laccadive Islands and Minicoy Regulation and institution of a proper system of Local Administration.—The matter is under examination.

Appointment of a Development Commissioner.—The Government consider the appointment of a Development Commissioner unnecessary.

Development of Cottage Industries and fishing centres.—The main cottage industries capable of development are dealt with below :—

(1) *Production of coconut jaggery.*—As this interferes with full production of copra, no action is considered necessary.

(2) *Crushing of oil by means of country chekkus.*—The oil will get rancid if kept in the islands. Due to transport bottleneck and also the difficulty of maintaining bullocks in the islands large scale crushing of copra has no prospects. It is not necessary to establish and demonstrate any oil-ghani on the islands.

(3) *Introduction of better methods of coir production.*—It is proposed that if the islands boys are interested in taking a full course of training in coir a few seats may be reserved for them in the Beypore coir school with suitable stipends for them during the monsoon period. The proposal is under further examination.

(4) *Trade in vinegar.*—It has been recommended that the trade in vinegar may be canalised through co-operative societies to Cochin. The proposal was, however, found unworkable both as a business proposition and as a co-operative enterprise.

(5) *Improvement to trade in plaited kadjan leaves.*—It was reported that the market on the mainland for kadjan leaves is not attractive. The question is also linked up with the institution of regular steamer service and postal communication facilities. The Government consider that there is no need to pursue further the matter for the present.

(6) *Deep sea fishing centres—Cottage industries centering round fish.*—To start with, it has been suggested that three deep sea fishing centres may be established in the islands. The matter is under consideration.

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Marking out Community Project areas and National Extension Service Blocks.—It is proposed to launch the National Extension Service during the second five-year plan period in the entire State. The request of the islanders will be considered in this connexion.

Starting co-operative organization.—It is reported that the islanders have no urge for co-operative societies. The question of introducing co-operative organization in the islands was considered and deferred pending institution of a steamer service. However, a Senior Inspector of Co-operative Societies has been sent to the islands tc explore the possibilities in this direction and his report is awaited.

Postal and Wireless communication.—Post offices of the rural type are proposed to be opened as soon as the regular steamer service is introduced. The question of establishing wireless communication is under consideration.

Constituency for the islands.—The matter concerns the Delimitation Commission. Final orders in the matter have been issued by the Commission but no separate seat has been allotted for the islands.

Placing all the islands of the Laccadives and Amindivis under the Collector of Malabar.—It is considered premature to take any measures in this direction pending institution of a regular steamer service.

Publication of Sri S. Y. Krishnaswami's report.—The question is under consideration.

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